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NURSERMEN'S BULLETIN

January, 1910

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Nurserymen and Horticulturists
Germantown, Phila., Pa.*

A Horticultural Establishment Composed of Experts



WE want to hear from everyone who has the least interest in horticulture. We can give help and advice of a kind distinct from any other horticultural establishment in this country. It has been 56 years since we established this business, and during that period the great amount of work that has been accomplished, and the experience gained has brought almost to perfection our methods of satisfactorily serving the thousands of plant lovers who come to us for advice and information year after year.

In our various departments we have men who have devoted all their lives to the plant world—some graduates of the famous Kew Gardens, England, and others who are well known in the horticultural "press" of to-day.

We will consider it a pleasure to give the very best advice to all who may wish information. Where it may be necessary we will suggest the most economical means of furthering any particular project that may be under consideration.

It is through this co-operation that we have to-day many thousands of well-pleased customers, but we do not wish you to think that this invitation is given with only the selfish desire of furthering our business interests.

A letter directed to the *Special Information Department* will come directly before those who will be in a position to give the very best practical advice and suggestions.

Write us to-day.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS, Inc.
Germantown, Philadelphia

METHEUN'S BULLETIN

Vol. 1.

JANUARY, 1910.

No. 5.

Winter Beauty in Trees and Shrubs

EDWIN MATTHEWS

The beauty of spring, the glory of summer, the fruitfulness of autumn appeal easily to one and everyone, but it is left to the real lover of nature to appreciate the less conspicuous, but equally charming beauties of winter.

A goodly number, doubtless the majority, of the large garden owners leave their beautiful country estates for the city with its artificialities on the first appearance of winter, returning to nature

only when King Frost has altogether relaxed his hold on the land and spring has again clothed the landscape with verdure, but in the intervening and so-called dark and gloomy winter days have they not missed the winter beauty of the trees?

Look yonder at that fine old specimen, American Beech, with its massive trunk and bare branches, standing in gray grandeur, vying in point of conspicuous beauty with the pure white profile of the Birch. The latter stands out against the foliage of an Hemlock Spruce close by, both trees showing up to advantage for being placed near each other.

In striking contrast to the smooth bark of the Birch and Beech compare the rugged and deeply furrowed bark of the Sweet Chestnut, Elm, Sour Gum, Mossy Cup Oak and others, which stand in strength, showing off to advantage their massive proportions as they can do at no other time during the year.

The bark is one point of beauty, but the general outline of a massive specimen tree in winter is, to say the least, inspiring and never depressing, for now we see, what we cannot in summer, the noble girth with massive arms outstretched in herculean strength, as if in defiance of winter's gales and storms.

What more inspiring sight than a full-grown specimen of the Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), one of the finest and best of our native trees.

How they must have impressed the Pilgrim Fathers, when first they beheld the stately grandeur of this tree. What height, what symmetry, surely a true interpretation of dignity.

Again, now that the trees are devoid of leafage, we are enabled to note some of the bark peculiarities in them. Look at the corky protuberances all along the stem and branches of the Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), another of our native trees. While among those not native, but which possess the same characteristic are the Winged



How beautiful is the white profile of our native Birch, displayed in this picture.

Elm (*Ulmus alatus*) and Euonymus alatus, both plants having the branches and twigs winged with thin layers of bark.



The accompanying illustration of the Cork tree only gives one a faint conception of the ruggedness of its bark.

The Chinese Cork Tree (*Phellodendron ReGeliana*), with its deep corky bark, is extremely interesting to note at this time and is worth growing for this feature alone.

Trees and plants with brightly colored bark are doubly welcome now and show up well against the snow. They are quite a contrast to the prevailing sombre tints of winter. The Willows and the Dogwoods have a number of species which afford bright red and yellow effects.

How few of us have seen the striped-bark Maple of our Pennsylvania mountains? The bark color of this Maple in winter is unique indeed, being shining green with a pin-stripe of pure white running longitudinally through it, as if the artist had used his smallest brush in the work.

How charming in winter is the sight of a grove of old specimen White Pine towering upwards in their gaunt and rugged beauty above the carpeting of snow. The Golden Arbor Vitaes have taken on their winter garb of copper hue, while the Normann Fir assumes to our eye a more living green as a result of the absence of leafage from its near neighbor the Bald Cypress, standing sentinel-like and without any apparent sign of life whatever, yet with this as with all the deciduous section of trees, we know this is not the sleep of death, that while they are resting, nature is at work perfecting a picture to be presented to us at spring's great awakening.

Care of Orchards in the Fall

We are giving below in full a letter from a reader on this subject. This exchange of ideas we appreciate and seek to encourage in this column.

HOOD RIVER, OREGON.

In your November BULLETIN there is a response to an inquiry concerning the care of apple orchards in the fall. It occurred to me it would not be out of place to give you an answer from the standpoint of the Pacific Northwest, inasmuch as the country at large is gradually starting to use our methods.

In the first place all orchards of whatever fruit are clean cultivated. About the middle of September a cover crop of Cow Peas, Clover, Vetch or Rape is sown between the trees, or sown early enough to get the benefit of the fall rains. About the middle of October the apples are picked, wiped, sorted and boxed. As soon as the apples are all picked the trees are thoroughly sprayed with Bordeaux mixture for anthracnose before the leaves fall. Sometimes again after the leaves are all off. In December and January the winter pruning is done. In the spring before the buds swell the trees are sprayed again, either with Bordeaux or with lime sulphur mixture, if there is any sign or fear of San Jose scale. Also as soon as the condition of the ground permits the cover crop is turned in and clean cultivation starts again.

CLARENCE E. COFFIN.



One cannot help but be awed by the great stature of the tall Tulip Poplar.

The Landscape Gardener Analyzed

ERNEST HEMMING

It would be hard to find a profession, the name of which is more often misapplied, than that of the landscape gardener. Nearly every jobbing gardener, nurseryman and florist feels entitled to call himself a landscape gardener when he undertakes a small job of grading or planting. Upon referring to the American Encyclopedia for a definition, I find the following:

"That particular art which succeeds by due study of natural beauties in landscape to combine the best of their peculiarities in an artificial way."

Unfortunately the popular understanding of the term Landscape Gardening is very different, and is perhaps better illustrated by a sign the writer recalls having seen bearing the following legend:

"Washing and Landscape Gardening done here."

The man behind the sign may have been a very worthy fellow and his wife an excellent laundress. He may have been well able to plant a tree or shrub, sod a bank, arrange a bed of flowers, or even stake out a drive; but it is highly improbable that he knew enough about the trees or shrubs to select for a particular place or to determine the proper grade, or even the proper slope of the bank for a given position.

The same in a different degree applies to the nurseryman or the florist. He may have a splendid practical knowledge of plants as he grows them, but this does not entitle him to the rank of a landscape gardener, unless he has made a special study of it, any more than the manufacturer of paints may lay claim to the title of artist.

The nurseryman comes closer in his work to the profession of landscape gardener than any of the allied lines, yet none knows better than the thoroughly efficient and educated nurseryman how incompetent he is, when it comes to those questions of landscape art separated from the actual growing of the trees or plants.

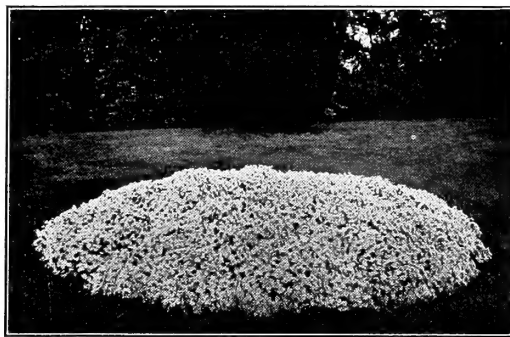
One of the first things to recognize is the fact that man's dwellings must of a necessity be artificial and the surroundings at least partially so.

This does not prevent them from being artistic and beautiful, and if good taste combined with skill be used in laying them out, the service road, the drying green, stable, garage, objectionable views, cellar doors, and so many other necessary, but often unsightly objects, can be so screened by proper planning and planting that the eye only rests upon pleasing things.

Just what, how, where and when to plant to produce these results are questions that can be answered best by the skillful landscape gardener. The nurseryman can usually tell when and how to plant, climatic influences, and soil adaptability, but unless he has made it a systematic study, and had broad experience, he is not so likely to produce harmonious results in attempting the practice of landscape art.

The profession really draws upon so many of the arts and sciences that it is difficult to conceive one man master in all lines. He would have to be a horticulturist, with a thorough knowledge of at least a number of its branches and with a knowledge of Botany, so as to not only know plants when he sees them, but to know their habits in all details, their requirements in regard to soil and exposure, and their fitness in an artistic way. He must have a lively imagination to picture how they will look in the future.

He must be a civil engineer and know surveying, draughting, grading, roadmaking, draining, have a knowledge of soils and practical ideas of the cost of executing such work.



A common sight on thousands of lawns. How severe, unnatural, and without any landscape beauty. From a distance one imagines it is a piece of paper on the lawn.

He must be architect enough to design at least all buildings connected with the garden and grounds, such as pergolas, summer houses, walls, fountains, steps, etc., and have sympathy and understanding of the architect's design and object, to be able to make the grounds a fit setting for the building, and also be business man enough to look after his client's interests.

It will be readily seen that a really efficient landscape equipment should either embody in one man a remarkably well-rounded knowledge and experience, or there must be more than one man, each an expert in his particular line, working in harmony to produce a given result.

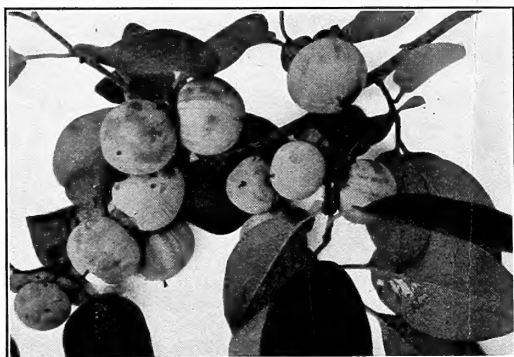
No doubt the reader with a small property will at once mentally decide that such an equipment is all right for the laying out of cities, parks, cemeteries and large estates, but is too expensive and unnecessary for their requirements. This impression is quite erroneous, in fact, the smaller the property the more essential it is that it have proper landscape treatment. Where money is scarce and every penny must be made to count and show real value for its expenditure, it is not wise to fritter it away with experimental planting.

Even if there is only an appropriation of \$10.00 a year available for the development of the grounds, a properly prepared scheme that will develop the best features of the property is necessary for its economical expenditure.

The owner of a new house, with undeveloped grounds surrounding it, should call in the services of a landscape gardener. The expenditure of a small sum at this stage will insure the grounds being properly planted and save many times the amount in experimental planting, errors and wasted time.

There are times when it is not necessary for the landscape gardener to actually see the place, especially if the place be small. In these cases the capable landscape gardener only requires a sketch of the property, showing boundary lines, location of house and other buildings, drives, trees and other permanent features, then if he is master of his business and knows the locality he can design the grounds and prepare a plan that will show in detail what to plant and where to plant.

No one will doubt the fact that a home with artistically developed grounds will find readier sale and command a better price than the same house without such improvements, so that the employment of a landscape gardener should not be looked upon as a luxury that may be dispensed with, but rather as an investment that will pay good returns in pleasure and comfort when expended on the home, and pecuniary returns should the property be for sale.



The Native Persimmon. What jokes have been played on the innocent with its aid! When Jack Frost touches it, however, the fruit is transformed to a delicacy. Spring is the time to plant it.

Even if the nurseryman or florist has become an efficient landscape artist, he can hardly afford to give the proper study and draw plans without charge, just for the purpose of selling plants. If he does so the natural inference is that he must ask more for his plants, and his sole object is evident—the disposal of his plants.

How much more satisfaction there is in employing a landscape gardener and paying him for his work, purchasing the plants to carry out his design from whom one sees fit. Too, there is the

added advantage of buying and planting at the most convenient time. With a complete plan different portions may be developed at separate times, and in the end perfectly carry out the artist's design.

Nothing is a mystery or difficult when properly understood, and the simplest things are extremely difficult to the ignorant.

It is as unjust to pose as a landscape gardener without proper study as it would be to pose as an artist, doctor, or any other professional man, where the client must necessarily take everything on faith.

The work of a true landscape gardener is not always evident on completion. It takes years for the living pigments to grow and unfold the beauty of his plan.

As a rule a nurseryman can give good advice in regard to plants. Few know them better than he. It is to his advantage to have the plants he sells grow and do well, so, as a rule, provided he knows the conditions under which the plants are to be set out, his advice may be depended upon.

It should not be expected, however, that he can give landscape service such as arrangement, designing, planning and other work that is so entirely out of his province.

After all, gardens and grounds are chiefly for the owner's or occupant's pleasure, and if they enjoy developing their own properties and are willing to pay for their own mistakes and experience there is nothing to prevent. To such I would advise "Let the wants of the individual plants be your only guide. Take but little thought of effects. It is possible to forgive errors in design, but it is absolute failure to set a tree where it will not grow or only drag out a miserable existence."

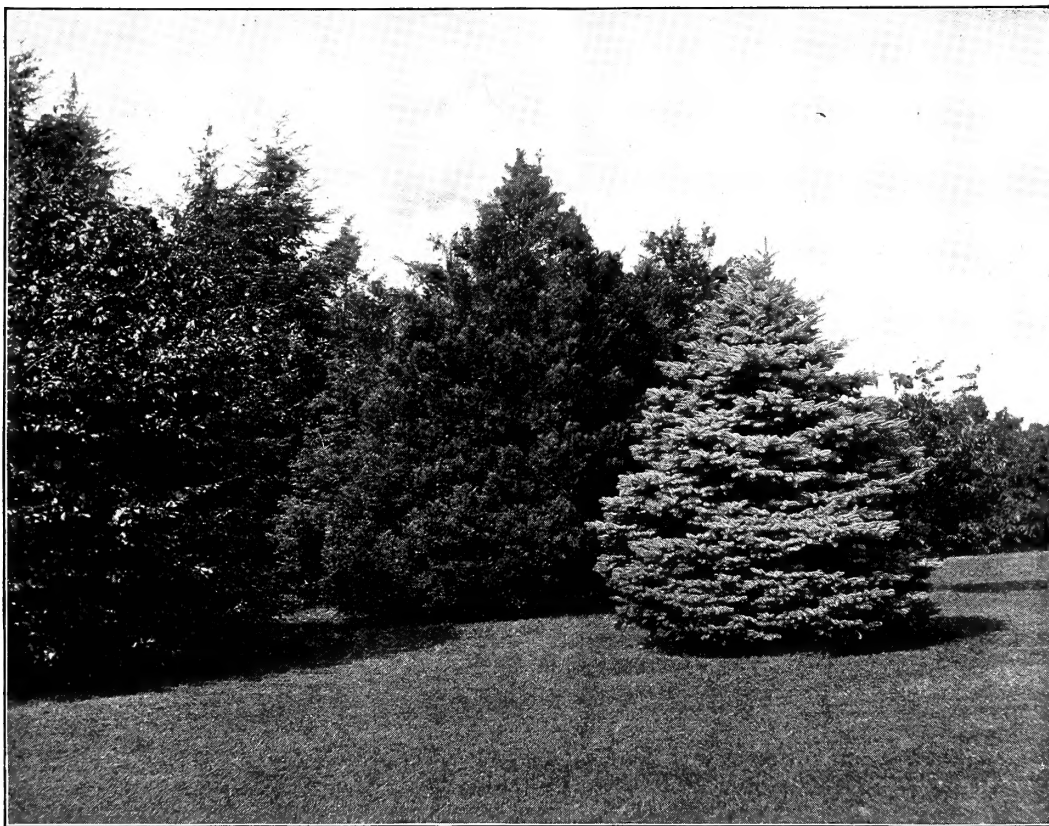
The commonest plant; tree or shrub, thriving and looking well, is more pleasing than the most costly in an unhappy condition.

A single tree, well grown and above the average, will make a place more notable and give more pleasure than a very elaborate planting where the plants do not look thrifty.

One of the most prolific causes of failure to produce lasting results is the impatience of the average planter. He is too anxious to get shade and so attempts to move too large plants at great cost and risk; else he will plant quick growing, trashy kinds of trees, which serve the purpose for the time being, but rapidly deteriorate.

All planting should be done with a view to enhance the value of the property. A Poplar will grow quickly, but it is soft-wooded and a short-lived tree at the best, so while it will give quick shade it should be supplemented by a more durable and choicer kind, such as Oak, Beech, Maple, etc., and then be cut away as soon as it can be dispensed with.

We hear a good deal these days of natural effects, and some think if they can reproduce nature in the garden they are clever landscape gardeners. Why try to reproduce nature artificially? She will do it without help. The finest thing in nature is man's intelligence, and when this is artistically and scientifically applied in the development of our surroundings it produces something very different from the unaided nature.



The true setting for the Colorado Blue Spruce, giving it an opportunity to fully develop, and a dark background to display its blue-steel color.

The Use and Abuse of Evergreens in Landscape Work

VERNON CASSEL

Evergreens form one of the most valuable assets of the landscape gardener.

Poor effects may be noticed continuously, both through lack of use and overuse of these plants.

Some varieties of evergreens lend themselves more especially to woodland or semi-wild plantings. Others are only appropriate in open positions, where they will form fine specimen trees and where their beauty is not marred by the encroachment of plants of any other variety. Again some require the close association and support of other plants that their full beauty may be brought out.

No hard and fast rule can be laid down as to suitable kinds of evergreens to be planted in fixed locations. Some general rules, however, will always apply. Where it is desired to set evergreens among deciduous trees in a woodland or semi-wild planting, those varieties should be used which are naturally found in such locations,

or are semi-shade-enduring. The Hemlock Spruce is probably one of the best evergreens for this purpose. It lends itself to use in almost any situation. It looks well in a deep, dark glen or on a summit of a bleak hill. Its flexible and graceful character of growth makes it one of the most beautiful and desirable of evergreens. To the contrary, the Colorado Blue Spruce in a wild bit of woodland usually looks out of place, and is likely to be spoiled by the shade.

As a rule evergreens with gayly colored foliage are not desirable for woodland or semi-wild plantings. The colors have been secured by selection and special propagation and this seems to require that they shall be used in the proximity of buildings or in connection with the ornamented portions of a property, just as one naturally expects to see a domestic animal near a house and not running wild many miles from a habitation.

Almost all kinds may be used as specimen lawn plants.

The Trailing Vew, Spreading Juniper and the Globe Arbor-vitae, or other dwarf varieties, are always more appropriately used in connection with other plantings, to which they add a charm and finish akin to that supplied by the ballustrade or battlement in stone constructions.

In locating evergreens even more care than with deciduous plants is required to so place them that they shall not come in the line of a desirable distant view. After they become thoroughly established it takes only a very few years before they attain a height when they will shut off everything beyond them. If they be improperly placed, they must be transplanted or the view given up. If they have grown to a too great height the only cure is to cut them out, and it is always hard to decide to do this. It is far better to give proper consideration to their location in the beginning.

Every property, whether large or small, should have a proper quantity of evergreens appropriately located. Nothing so much helps to ameliorate the barrenness of the landscape during the winter months as the bright colors. They also add variety and charm to the summer foliage, so that they are, what might be called, constant and all-year-round companions.



The entrance to a delightful, shady walk, whose sinuous way is bordered with a continued surprise of flowering shrubs and old-fashioned garden flowers. The Yews, like Sentinels, guard the entrance.

Snow on Evergreen Branches

What a beautiful picture is very often made during the winter months by the snow lodging on the branches of Evergreen Trees.

There is, however, another side to this picture, which is seldom thought of, and that is the weight of the snow spreading and breaking the branches.

In a very heavy fall of snow the foliage and twigs will weigh down so far that the cellular tissue of the branches is so badly ruptured and injured as to make it impossible for them to regain their normal position.

Evergreen Hedges are very often badly disfigured by the weight of snow spreading them open and making gaps and unsightly places.

Snow will always serve as a very good covering for plants, but in the case of Evergreen Hedges it is far better to remove it than to allow it to remain on with the likelihood of disfigurement, as cited above, and by taking the precaution to immediately brush it off each time there is a fall the future appearance of the plants will be protected.

tected.

HARRY BROWN.

The Deciduous or Bald Cypress

(*Taxodium Distichum*.)

"I am much pleased with your monthly BULLETIN and especially with the notes on trees. Trees have been my study for many years. I wish you would devote one issue to what is probably the best tree in all America—the Deciduous Cypress.

You may think it a little strange that I would call it the best tree, but here are my reasons: It is a very beautiful tree while young, and when in leaf it has a very delicate, fern-like foliage. As a middle-aged tree it is stately and beautiful, and in old age becomes magnificent.

There is hardly any other tree in America that has such a combination of good qualities as the Deciduous Cypress. It has no insect enemies that I have ever seen, nor any diseases. It is absolutely hardy anywhere where Dent corn is grown. It is of exceedingly rapid growth when once established, and will outgrow every other useful tree; further, it is the only ornamental tree (excepting the White Pine) that will in the lawn or by the roadside make some day a very large and valuable log for the sawyer. Left to itself it will attain a height of 100 feet, and a diameter of 6 or 8 feet in a little more than a hundred years.

Cypress lumber is exceedingly useful, and commands a high price. With all these good qualities it is astonishing to me that the tree is so little planted, and I must consider that it is the fault of nurserymen who neglect to make mention of its good qualities.

I have studied this tree in many states and some foreign countries, and think it stands in a class by itself; distinctly the best thing available for roadside planting, for large lawns, or for timber purposes anywhere that Dent corn is grown. When you consider that it is as beautiful as a flower when it is small, and that its interest only increases with age, you must see that it is worthy of being planted by everyone who has sufficient ground. Consider also that a man may plant a Cypress Tree and his son may cut it down and sell it for enough money to pay his expenses at college for a year. Please push the Deciduous Cypress."

JOSEPH E. WING.

A Plea for Naturalness in Trees

STANLEY V. WILCOX

It may seem strange to many that one should plead for naturalness in anything that is so much an elementary part of nature as a tree. Can a tree be anything but natural? It can only inasmuch as it is put to misuse by man.

Oftentimes a tree is not knowingly poorly selected or placed in an unnatural position, and it is the object of this writing not to criticise so worthy an object as tree planting, either in natural or unnatural positions, but by comparison and illustration to guard against some of the more common mistakes.

Trees, like other natural features, are being adapted more and more to man's needs. They are used mostly for two purposes: Service and ornamentation.



Every arm, every branch, every twig bears evidence of
Nature's hand-work in the development
of this grand Elm.

For service man uses the fruit and nut-bearing trees and trees for windbreaks, hedges and shade. In the planting of these we exercise our skill to not only imitate but, if possible, to improve on nature's methods. We very properly prune our fruit trees so that the heads will be open to allow the sun's action on the bearing wood. For wind-

breaks and hedges we use varieties most adaptable. Windbreaks are primarily a provision of nature and we strive to imitate her as nearly as possible. Hedges show at a glance their purpose, and he is to be commended who combines in them both beauty and utility.

Shade trees, while largely planted for service, deserve more than passing notice. For avenue and street planting a tree with good stem and head is preferable. Unless a very formal avenue is wanted, it is not necessary to select trees so uniformly alike. In fact to do so destroys the beauty of such planting and gives that set artificial look, so distasteful to the true lover of nature.

While writing there comes to mind an avenue of trees in which every tree has its own individuality, which it has been allowed to develop unmolested. A Scarlet Oak, with its sturdy, wide-spreading branches, with a decided upward tendency, stands next to a Pin Oak with perfectly straight main trunk and drooping branches. A pair of large Wild Cherries come next, then an irregular old Catalpa, and so on down the avenue. True to nature? Yes, and just as serviceable and far more beautiful than any row of set Carolina Poplars or Silver Maples, with rounded heads that must be topped in yearly, yet the majority of tree planters today favor the artificial looking topped in trees, with very little beauty and no individuality—simply tiresome repetition.

It is the planting of trees for beauty and ornamentation, however, that we should more closely study. To many persons a Maple for instance is simply a Maple. To them the beauty of the Red Maple in the spring is lost. It is merely a Maple. They notice not, or, if they do notice, ignore the beauty of the Sugar Maple in the fall. It is merely a Maple. They plant a Sugar Maple and are disappointed that it does not develop the same rounded head as a Norway Maple.

Take the average suburban place and you will notice that in many cases the trees planted are selected for their straightness. Why not set out now and then a crooked tree? One that has the real natural outlines and has not been pruned and staked till it has lost its individuality. What may look to be an angular, crooked trunk and ill-shaped head may shortly develop into a beautiful tree, true to its type.

Honest Grass Seeds

Do you realize that when you buy lawn grass seed you are forced to accept the Seedman's statements as to its purity and freshness?

Do you also know that about 90 per cent. of grass mixtures are sold by men who purchase them already mixed?

We were offered grass mixtures at a very low figure, but on inquiry could not obtain a satisfactory report as to what they contained. That is why our Peerless Grass Mixture is distinct from all others.

Every ounce of Peerless Mixture is mixed in our own seed rooms from different kinds of grass seeds, all purchased separate and of the re-cleaned, extra fine quality.

No foreign material, sweepings or weed carrying mixtures creep in.

The real value of Peerless Mixture is further shown by the fact that 20 lbs. are contained in a bushel to the usual 14 lb. weight of the other mixtures.

Our seed is also fresh and mixed as sent out. It is not old seed of doubtful vitality.

The formula governing the mixing of our seed comes from tests made for some years and proven now to be the equal of any on the market.

The final reason why every careful buyer of grass seeds should take none but ours is the fact that our prices are favorable when compared to those of other mixtures. You get a known article at the price of a questionable mixture.

MEEHANS' PEERLESS GRASS SEED

1 quart, . . . 25 cts. 5 bus. lots, per bus., \$4.50
1 quart, postpaid 30 cts. 10 bus. lots, per bus., 4.25
1 bushel, (20 lbs.) 4.75

MEEHANS' SHADY LAWN GRASS SEED

Like the Peerless brand, this is not bought already mixed, but follows a formula known to us to produce good results in shady positions.

The expensive varieties of grass seeds required to succeed in such positions accounts for the difference in price, but is reasonable compared to market quotations.

1 quart, . . . 35 cts. 5 bus. lots, per bus., \$5.75
1 quart, postpaid 40 cts. 10 bus. lots, per bus., 5.25
1 bushel, (20 lbs.) 6.00

Quantity Required—1 quart for 300 square feet. One acre requires 4 to 5 bushels.

Thomas Meehan & Sons, Inc.
GERMANTOWN, PHILA., PA.

Is it not the gnarly Apple that we remember best of all the trees we are familiar with? Every time we look it has gained something and means more to us. The crooked "Smoke Tree" and the Old Crab. They were trees indeed.

When we get better acquainted with the trees, it will not be hard to enthuse more naturalness into our plantings. Nature has been more than kind in the way of variety. There are few sections where the natural tree and plant life is so similar as to become tiring. Let us copy her therefore in this respect and diversify our plantings more. Set out some of the rarer trees and let us not forget the trees very common in our immediate section. These very trees, which we may not consider, are largely sought for perhaps in sections where they may not attain to such splendid trees as with us.

The planting of trees as individual specimens or in groups oftentimes determines whether we will have a stiff unnatural planting or a counterpart of nature. Too often trees are set singly, when they should be grouped to form a more pleasing picture. The Birches, for instance, may be considered beautiful as individual specimens, but give us groups of them for real natural beauty. Again, a clump of Tulip Poplars is not nearly so effective and natural as an individual specimen. Give us groups and groups of Judas Trees, but of Elms, nothing quite equals the effectiveness of a single specimen.

Let us study trees more closely, therefore, and as we get to know them our eyes will be opened to the artificiality that threatens to blot out the natural beauty of the trees.

Obituary

JOHN PUGH BURN.

As we go to press, we are left with this short space in which to announce the sudden death, on January 15th, of John Pugh Burn.

The name will be recognized by many readers as of the active head of the Operating Department, the Landscape Gardening Branch of the business of Thomas Meehan and Sons, Inc.

Mr. Burn's work and association were of such a character as to call for an account which we must defer till the February issue.



Special Information Department

Conducted by S. V. WILCOX

In this department we will discuss all horticultural problems that will be of value to our readers. Time mentioned for work or flowering is for locality of Philadelphia.

Ask us for any information you are in need of in the horticultural line.

Address all communications "Special Information Department, 'Garden Bulletin.'"

Hydrangea and Althaea

For large flowers should *Hydrangea arborescens* be pruned same as *paniculata*, and if not, how?

Will it make as nice a standard as *paniculata*? If so, how should it be pruned to get a handsome tall standard, that is, how should it be pruned in first instance to get the trunk?

The *Althaea* is not hardy here, Northern Illinois, as a general thing. What will be likely to be the most favorable conditions for it, as to soil—rich, poor, heavy or light situation, dry or moist. Exposure—sun, shade or partial shade. Winter protection—as to roots and as to top.

W. S.
To secure large flowers on *Hydrangea arborescens* the shrubs should be pruned the same as *Hydrangea paniculata*, as the *arborescens*, like the *paniculata*, flowers on the first year wood.

It is very pretty when grown in standard form. The first requisite to starting the standard is to prune the plant you have right down to the base. The plant should then be manured heavily, so that it will throw out good strong shoots. Select the strongest of these and cut out all the others. The shoot selected should be allowed to make just as much growth as possible during the season. It can then be headed in at the height desired and the buds on the stem below kept rubbed off. In the growing of standards on the nursery strong, straight, one year layers are selected for this purpose, which are very easily shaped up.

The most desirable position for the *Althaea* would be a good open, sunny one, that is well drained. In an open, sunny place the plant would have an opportunity to ripen its wood. It should be sheltered from the prevailing winter winds. A mulching of four or five inches of well-rotted manure and a light strawing up of the tops would be sufficient winter protection.

Pruning a Barberry Hedge

If I put out a Barberry hedge, 18 to 24 inch plants, this fall (if not too late), how and when should it be pruned the first time? How long will it take to make a good 30-inch hedge? How often and in what manner should it be pruned to make such a hedge in the shortest time?

A. W. M.

If you plant out a Barberry hedge this fall of 18 to 24 inches, we would advise that it be cut down at once to an even height of about 12 inches.

The length of time it will take to make a good 30-inch hedge depends a great deal upon the location and treatment. If cut down to 12 inches, as we suggest, it would attain a height of at least 2½ feet next summer, but this growth would be somewhat straggly and could not be called a good bushy hedge. The plants should be cut back again next summer, being careful not to cut them back as far as they were the previous time. A good rule for pruning them is to cut them back just as often as they appear straggly. During a good growing season they might need pruning two or three times. By following this method you will secure a good bushy hedge in about three years.

Berries on Barberry

Please advise me in future issue why some specimens of the *Berberis Thunbergii*, apparently thrifty, have no berries. I have in mind a number of them in this city, on which there is not a trace of berries, while others nearby, apparently no more thrifty, are bountifully supplied.

C. W. B.

In regard to the fruiting of the *Berberis Thunbergii*, it is very likely that the plants you noticed that were not fruiting are plants that have been trimmed back either for hedging or for making some formal specimens. By trimming them in this way the flowering and berry-bearing wood is sacrificed. We believe that every plant of the Japanese Barberry produces perfect flowers, so that there is no other reason that we can advance for their non-fruiting, except it be that for some reason the flowers did not set this year.

Hot Beds and Cold Frames

Do you think that it would be wise to try to carry hot beds through early severe cold snaps by setting in each hot bed a small lamp or other source of heat? It seems as if a very small supply of heat during a few days might keep the hot bed going for many weeks longer than it would if this heat were not supplied. We will have the thermometer approaching zero for a few days, and then relatively mild weather again perhaps for weeks.

If this plan seems to you at all wise, is there any particular form of lamp which you would recommend?

H. M. H.

We have not had very much experience with the use of lamps for heating cold frames, which we presume is what you have reference to, and

(Continued on Page 12.)



The entrance to the home grounds will either make or mar the general effect. This illustration shows a pleasing treatment which must necessarily be formal.

Notes by a Landscape Expert

ROBERT B. CRIDLAND

Whether the grounds be of small dimensions or great magnitude, the same fundamental principles hold good as to how we shall meet the problems and devise plans for their best development.

The grading, drainage, road and path construction constitute the engineering features of the work and should be worked out in detail before ornamentation is begun. This should never be undertaken, except by those of experience, but executed in the most careful manner. The proper position of the house, drives and paths, and the general topography will either lend itself readily to the decorative part, embracing the plantations, or, as is most frequently the case, make it most difficult to create a satisfactory blending of the two.

There is a tendency to overcrowd on small as well as large properties with trees and shrubbery, both in quantity and variety, and it behooves the unexperienced to consider well their subject before attempting the planting of a property.

Trees should be planted with the greatest care as to their position with reference to the house. They should never be placed so close as to exclude the sunshine at all hours of the day, but rather for a partial shade, and only where most essential.

When planting for shade it is well to consider the position with a view to the background, and to framing the house, which is always to be the dominant feature in the composition. Apart from

planting immediately about the residence (excepting large estates) the tree planting would best be confined to boundary lines of the grounds.

Trees on the open lawn should be planted from seventy-five to one hundred feet apart to show their full beauty. While in the beginning, such a distance would leave the lawn rather barren, it is better to plant them closer together with the idea of removing some of them later, as they interfere with perfect development. It is with greatest reluctance one removes a tree regardless of former resolutions, so for this reason it is best to fix the positions of the large-growing trees with definiteness, and use dwarf varieties and shrubbery to give the massed effect where desired.

In planting a background for a house, care should be taken to select large-growing sorts, while the smaller ones may be used in the foreground.

As far as practicable the deep-rooting, hardwood trees should be planted on the lawn, to avoid the bare spots caused by trees with surface roots.

When standing to the south of the woodland on a blustery day, one wonders why windbreaks are not more frequently planted. In these days of improved heating facilities they may not seem so essential as in the days of our ancestors, but nevertheless there are few places which would not be improved by this most practical feature.

It does not require a very large tract to plant windbreaks to the north of the buildings, and they may be made most satisfactory from an æsthetic as well as practical point of view, provided trees of an evergreen and deciduous character are used.

We should learn to economize and study carefully ultimate results. Shrubbery should not be planted so closely together that an effect similar to the foliage beds of the last century is produced. Plants are the better for being worked around, so some space should be left for this purpose. It should be borne in mind that a planting of shrubs is just as effective three deep of one variety as are a dozen, unless planted on a slope. The only exception to this being the dwarf sorts, which are planted on the salient points of the belt plantation, where greater masses may be planted.

The formal garden in most recent work has been introduced with more or less success. All things being equal, the flower garden should have a southern exposure, and if the architect gives the proper study to his design of the house, there is not any reason why this should not always be feasible.

The successful garden should possess a simple internal arrangement and a good setting. The grass plots should predominate and the border beds never exceed four feet when they may only be reached from one side; or six feet where accessible from two sides. The flower garden should be pre-eminently a house feature, and, for privacy and delight, obscured from the surrounding lawn. The exception to this might be where a pleasing vista is had from a higher elevation, where a bird's-eye view may be had of the residence and surroundings at the same time.

Small gardens are rarely a success adjacent to the house, and should be more or less isolated. When constructed in conjunction with the residence, there is a certain sense of proportion which will enter into the scheme. In most cases a turf terrace with a few box or other evergreens will be more dignified and pleasing.

The wild garden, isolated and where practicable on the edge of the woodland, will be less exacting in the way of caretaking and give a certain charm, lacking that of formal outline. The walks (al-

(Continued on Page 12.)



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Examine your old friends, the trees, about your house. Note the broken and dead branches, the decaying stumps and hollow places and the general debility of each individual; then consider what a loss its removal would be. Remember that in "civilized" conditions the tree has lost its natural environments and food and therefore requires special and scientific treatment.

Flowering Wood on Shrubs

is usually cut off in vain attempts to reduce the height of the plant or to "prune" it in accordance with the usual "custom." Proper pruning with a knowledge of the characteristics and flowering periods of each plant *increases* the flowering wood, keeps the plant to any desired size and retains the natural form of the plant.

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Special Information Department

(Continued from Page 9.)

not hot beds, as stated in your letter. To carry these cold frames through the early severe cold snaps, we would advise banking them up around the outside with at least a foot of good manure. The sash should then be covered with large mats. If covered in this way the beds can very safely be carried through quite cold weather. The mats should not be removed until the sun is up sufficiently to dispel any danger of frost. They should be covered again before the sun goes down in the evening.

Where convenient these cold frames or hot beds can be heated by running a coil of steam pipe through them. We would be rather inclined to believe that the use of the lamp would be apt to kill the plants, unless you could connect up an arrangement for carrying off the gas from the lamp, some such arrangement as they have on some incubators.

If they are hot beds that you have reference to, we should think that if manure was put in properly and the beds packed around tightly and covered with mats, it would afford a sufficient amount of heat to carry the plants along nearly the whole winter, providing they are properly ventilated.

Red-Berried Shrub

Can you tell me what is the name of the shrub with bright red berries along the stem, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter? I notice these shrubs in Maryland and in Southern New Jersey, in woods and moist thickets. The fruit is almost scarlet, not edible, has one or two flat, small seeds, berries soft and unpleasant flavor. It is highly ornamental and I would like to have it on my lawn.

M. L. S.

The shrub you describe, bearing the bright red berries along the stem, is very likely the shrub commonly known as Deciduous Holly (*Ilex verticillata*). It is a very hardy shrub, succeeds well in either high or low ground, and it is highly ornamental, especially at this season of the year, when the bare branches are covered with the numerous highly-colored berries.

Notes by a Landscape Expert

(Continued from Page 11.)

ways of turf) should be circuitous and the beds large enough to accommodate large-growing plants, which are necessary to obscure certain parts of the garden and introduce a variety of surprises.

In all landscape work it is expedient to have some definite plan of the grounds, prepared by an expert; it is utterly impracticable to go over the nursery catalogue and make a list of what may strike one's fancy regardless of the position the plants are to occupy. In many cases where this is done the stock usually arrives when least expected, and in the haste and excitement a most incongruous arrangement is the result. When contemplating the decorations of the place the proper sequence is to commence with the plan, arrange the masses, and lastly take up the catalogue to select the plants suited to the conditions and purpose of the planting.

Gardeners Seeking Positions

SCOTCHMAN, 45, married, with two small children, seeks a position. Very highest recommendation. 18 years on previous place. Leaves with good recommendation. Proficient in greenhouse work, outdoor gardening, and general horticultural work. Address A. J. B. S., Care of Thos. Meehan & Sons, Inc., Germantown, Phila., Pa.

AMERICAN GARDENER, 56 years old, married, with one child, wishes a superintendent position. Has been employed at present position 12 years. Experience covers supervision of work on large scale. Has executive ability, combined with a very thorough horticultural knowledge. Address A. M., Care of Thomas Meehan & Sons, Inc., Germantown, Phila., Pa.

SCOTCHMAN, 30, married, 3 small children, at present employed but seeks a place to improve his condition. Thoroughly acquainted with greenhouse work of all kinds, also outdoor gardening. Holds good recommendations. Address H. K., Care of Thomas Meehan & Sons, Inc., Germantown, Phila., Pa.

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GARDENER WANTED—Young man, unmarried or married, without children, to take charge of a place in Maryland. 3½ acres, with vegetable garden and small lawn. Will be expected to look after live stock. \$20 to \$25 per month and board to begin. Apply to O. F. C., Care of Thomas Meehan & Sons, Inc., Germantown, Phila., Pa.

Book Reviews

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE TREES. By J. Horace McFarland. The Macmillan Company, New York. Elegantly illustrated and ornamented; 241 pages; \$1.50 net.

Read this book to obtain a conversing knowledge of our trees. It is a pleasure to accompany the author on his various excursions. He maintains an air of comradeship throughout, which is gratifying, and we part from him with not a little practical benefit which was surely pleasantly acquired.

The elegance of the typography and illustration in this book reveals the fact of the author's acquaintance with artistic printing methods as well as with the trees.

ONE HUNDRED COUNTRY HOUSES. By Aymar Embury, II. The Century Company, New York, N. Y.; \$5.00.

The work of some of the leading architects of the country will be found in this attractive volume of useful knowledge on house design, with suggestive criticisms of the author, and an analysis of each composition. To what extent some precedent has influenced the styles of modern work is most interestingly suggested and will be found most instructive to the student of architecture, and those who may contemplate the building of a home.

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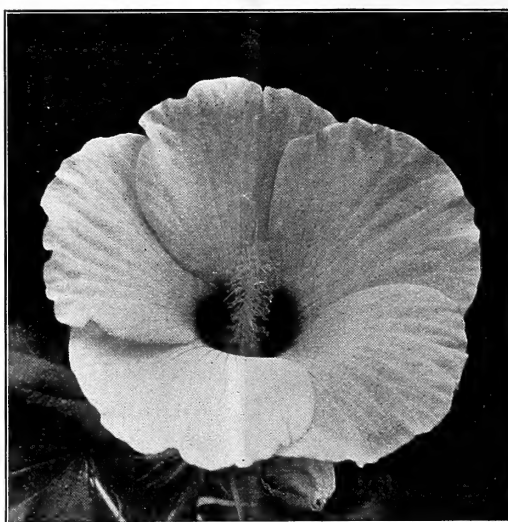
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